

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

2020 Interim Study Items: Recommendations and Actions | November 17, 2020

Priority Study Items

Title of Study Items	Committee Meetings	Committee Action
COVID-19 Agricultural Issues – Study the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the food supply chain and access to markets	Discussed in the June and August meetings. The committee heard from the Department of Agriculture and Food and the Department of Natural Resources regarding existing and possible future impacts on the food supply chain and access to markets.	No actions.
COVID -19 Loans for Agriculture - Study access to loans for the agricultural community.	Discussed in the June and August meetings. The committee heard from the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding access to federal CARES Act grants and state loans made available to the agriculture community during the COVID-19 pandemic.	The access to the COVID-19 Agricultural Operations Grant Program were included in S.B. 6009 “CARES Act and COVID-19 Assistance and Recovery Amendments,” Sixth Special Session.
COVID -19 Reduce Regulations on Oil, Gas, and Mining	Discussed in the June and August meetings. The committee heard from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining and representatives of SITLA and the oil, petroleum, and mining industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S.B. 6009 “CARES Act and COVID-19 Assistance and Recovery Amendments,” Sixth Special Session included provisions to create the Oil, Gas, and Mining Grant within GOED.• S.B. 6004 “Regulatory Certainty Amendments” included provisions regarding DOGM rulemaking and fees.

Title of Study Items	Committee Meetings	Committee Action
COVID-19 Request Federal PILT Funds as Stimulus Money	Discussed in the June and August meetings. The committee discussed a draft resolution requesting full PILT payments from the federal government as a means of economic stimulus.	The issues discussed by this committee were included in S.J.R. 601 “Joint Resolution on Federal Government Payments in Lieu of Taxes,” Sixth Special Session.
Utah Roadmap: Positive Solutions on Climate and Air Quality – Study the recommendations in the Utah Roadmap regarding air quality.	Discussed in the August and November meetings. Heard from Natalie Gochmour with the Kem C. Gardner Institute regarding the Utah Roadmap recommendations.	No actions.
Tier III Fuels - Study the use of and access to Tier III fuels and its impact on air quality.	Discussed in the August meeting. The committee heard from the Division of Air Quality and representatives of refineries regarding the status of the conversion to Tier III fuels. Also heard from Rep. Harrison regarding a web site that tracks access to Tier III fuels for consumers.	No actions.
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Review the anticipated impact of H.B. 396 “Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Amendments,” 2020 General Session.	Discussed in the August meeting. Heard Rep. Snow, Rocky Mountain Power, and UDOT regarding efforts to expand electric vehicle charging stations throughout Utah. This issue is also being studied by the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology interim committee.	No actions.
Clean Air Caucus Recommendations – Consider any recommendations from the Clean Air Caucus.	Discussed in the August meeting. Heard from representatives of the Clean Air Caucus regarding issues that the caucus is studying and possible needs for legislation.	No actions.

Title of Study Items	Committee Meetings	Committee Action
Agricultural Nuisance Act Amendments – Study issues addressed in S.B. 106 “Agricultural Amendments,” 2020 General Session, include the applicability of the Agricultural Nuisance Act to local ordinances.	Discussed in the September and November meetings. Discussed issues regarding the Agricultural Nuisance Act and the applicability of local ordinances. Considered draft legislation.	No actions, pending November meeting.
Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Program – Study the medical marijuana and industrial hemp programs.	Discussed in the September and November meetings. Heard from the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding the industrial hemp program and recommendations for statutory changes to the program.	No actions, pending November meeting.
Public Lands - Study recreational opportunities/state parks and monuments, wildfire and care of public lands, and PILT payments and tax equivalency	Discussed in the October meeting. Heard from the Division of Parks and Recreation regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the use of the state parks, creation of state monuments and state parks, and studies done regarding the potential viability of new state parks.	No action.
Satellite Inland Ports for Rural Areas - Study the potential use of satellite inland ports for rural products and economies.	Due to time constraints, this item was not considered during the 2020 Interim.	No action.
Radon Gas - Study the education of radon gas and the impacts of radon gas on the citizens of Utah. Are the state’s efforts enough?	Discussed in the October and November meetings. Heard from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the prevalence of, education efforts about, and the impact of radon gas in Utah.	No actions, pending November meeting.

Title of Study Items	Committee Meetings	Committee Action
Legislative Water Development Commission Recommendations	Discussed in November meeting. The committee received recommendations from the LWDC regarding the water study items. For details, see the LWDC Study Items Recommendations summary document.	No actions, pending November meeting.

Additional Study Items

Sunset Reviews	Discussed in August and October meetings. The committee discussed three sunset reviews that were assigned to the committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Policy Advisory Board • State Weed Committee • Federal Lands Application Advisory Committee 	Approved as committee bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Air Quality Policy Advisory Board Sunset Extension” • “State Weed Committee Sunset Extension” • “Federal Lands Application Advisory Committee Sunset Extension”
Automatic Repeal Review	Discussed in August and October meetings. The committee discussed extending the automatic repeal date for the Compliance Advisory Panel.	Approved as a committee bill “Compliance Advisory Panel Repeal Date”.
Wildfire Management	Discussed at the September meeting. Heard from the State Forrester regarding efforts to collaborate with the federal government to work to mitigate wildfire risks through shared stewardship agreements.	No actions.

Title of Study Items	Committee Meetings	Committee Action
Sensitive Species List	Discussed at the September and October meetings. Discussed the use of the sensitive species list by the Division of Wildlife Resources and a decision by the Wildlife Board to discontinue the use of the sensitive species list, which had not been updated by the Board for more than ten years. Instead, the Board is using a more current wildlife watchlist.	No actions.
Algal Blooms in Utah Lake	Discussed in the October meeting. Discussed the pilot programs aimed at addressing the algal blooms in Utah Lake.	No actions.
Legislative Audit – An In-depth Budget Review of the Department of Environmental Quality (Report #2020-04)	Discussed in the October meeting. Heard from the Office of the Legislative Auditor and the Department of Environmental Quality regarding one recommendation from the audit regarding the regulation of aboveground storage tanks.	No actions, pending November meeting.
Statewide Emissions Reduction Goals	Discussed in the November meeting. The committee discussed a draft resolution that would encourage the adoption of emission reduction goals.	No actions, pending November meeting.
State Energy Policy Review	Discussed in the November meeting. The committee discussed the State Energy Policy, as required by Utah Code Section 63M-4-302.	No actions, pending November meeting.

Title of Study Items	Committee Meetings	Committee Action
State Water Policy Review	Discussed in the November meeting. The committee discussed the State Water Policy, as required by Utah Code Section 73-1-21.	No actions, pending November meeting.
Report on the Great Salt Lake	Discussed in the November meeting. The committee received a report as required by H.C.R. 10 “Concurrent Resolution to Address the Declining Water Levels of the Great Salt Lake,” 2019 General Session.	No actions, pending November meeting.